



Photos by Al Schaben/DN

Wheelchair team looking up Founders want to include disabled athletes

By Susie Arth
Staff Reporter

Two UNL students have started a new sport, now they need teammates.

Doug Stutheit and Eric Kingery are the founders of a wheelchair basketball team at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, but the team is short a few players.

"Our plan," Stutheit said, "is to let the student population know that there are people who are eligible to play on the team but don't know it."

Stutheit, a senior finance major,

said students did not have to be regular wheelchair users to play. Anyone, he said, who had a disability that kept him or her from playing able-bodied sports was eligible.

Wheelchairs, he said, could be supplied for students who didn't have them.

Stutheit, who plays wheelchair basketball for a local team sponsored by Handicapped Recreational Service, said that team had players who weren't wheelchair users. Unfortunately, he said, only three members of his local team were UNL students.

Stutheit and Kingery said their ultimate goal would be to get wheelchair basketball on a varsity level, which means the university would give scholarships to encourage the best players to come to Nebraska.

Several universities, Stutheit said, already had established wheelchair basketball as a varsity sport.

The first step, they said, was to get the sport approved as a club sport on campus.

"We need to get enough people so

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Clockwise from right:

Eric Kingery makes a shot at the Campus Recreation Center basketball courts Tuesday afternoon.

Kingery laughs after playing basketball in the Lincoln City Wheelchair Basketball League at Lefler Junior High School Monday night.

Doug Stutheit (left) and Kingery play at the Campus Recreation Center every Tuesday and want to form a college team.

Stutheit laughs as he and Kingery race for a rebound Tuesday afternoon.

NU shooting for winning tradition, Nee says

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Editor

Regardless of the outcome of the game against Connecticut Thursday, the Nebraska men's basketball team will end this season a winner, Coach Danny Nee said.

When the Huskers were selected to the NCAA Tournament last Sunday, it marked the first time in school history that Nebraska had qualified two consecutive years.

Last season, Nee guided his Huskers to a 26-8 record and their first NCAA bid since the 1985-86 season — the season before he arrived.

And he said he was more than happy to make a return trip to the tournament.

"Since we've come here, we've been trying to build this winning tradition," Nee said. "Getting to the NCAA two years in a row is helping solidify the tradition."

"I think the significant thing is that

Nebraska's done it two years in a row. I think that's a major accomplishment for this team."

His team's success against tough competition this season has solidified the program's newfound winning tradition, he said.

"Our only loss to an unranked team was at (Kansas) State and that's pretty significant," he said. "We think we've done a lot of things right."

The Huskers' wins over high-ranked teams have helped that tradition grow

even more, Nee said.

"We beat Oklahoma State when they were 20-0," he said. "We beat Kansas when they were No. 2 in the country. We beat USC that's a No. 2 seed (in the NCAA Tournament)."

Nee said those wins established the winning legacy he wanted to instill at Nebraska.

"A lot of good things happened," he said. "The teams we've beaten have great win-loss records. Some of them have the highest (winning) per-

centages in the country."

Oklahoma State finished the regular season with a 26-7 record, Kansas is 26-4 and USC is 23-5.

Nee said his program would benefit from the recent success and it would expand into different areas.

"It's had a ripple effect," he said. "We feel that last year's NCAA bid and the success that we had helped us in our recruiting last fall."

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